Completion of Salandi Irrigation Project in Orissa

281. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Salandi Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) whether the entire amount has been sanctioned by the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details of the target date fixed for the completion of that project; and

(d) the details of progress made in the completion of that project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Salandi Irrigation Project in Orissa was originally approved by the Planning Commission in 1964 for Rs. 11.21 crore for creating irrigation potential of 45.73 thousand hectares. The project was completed during the 6th Plan at a total cost of Rs. 16.38 crore. However, the renovation and modernization of main canal distributaries and minors along with the cross drainage structures of the Charampa Branch Canal of Salandi Project is under implementation as one of the component of World Bank aided Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project since 1996. As on 1st June, 2001, 84.92 per cent of main canal and branches, 84.76 per cent of distributaries and minors, 75.29 per cent of structures in the main canal and branches and 93.66 per cent of the structures in the distributaries and minors have been completed. The target date of completion of the Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project is 30.09.2002 and Charampa Branch Canal work is also expected to be completed by this date.

Use of groundwater

282. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States and Union Territories have approached Government to enact legislation to regulate the use of groundwater, if so, the details of the States and the Union Territories;

(b) by when Government are expected to enact such a legislation/ regulations;

(c) the extent to which the heavy use of groundwater shall have an adverse effect on environment and forests in the country; and

(d) the States that have already taken action to use groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development has to be enacted by the States/Union Territories. However, in 1970 the Union Government had circulated a "Model Bill to regulate and control the development of groundwater and matters connected therewith" to all the States/ Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of groundwater development. Thereafter, a revised Model Bill was circulated in June, 1996 to all the States/UTs. So far, States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have enacted legislation to regulate the use of groundwater. The States of West Bengal and Karnataka have also passed Bill. However it is yet to be enacted.

(c) and (d) The excessive use of groundwater have resulted in decline in groundwater level in many parts of the country which have adverse effects on various aspects including environment and forests. Water being a State subject, action to augment water supplies and replenishing of groundwater is to be taken by the concerned State Government. The Union Government supplements the efforts made by the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance in this regard.

Achievements of National Perspective Plan for Linking of Rivers

283. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had mooted a National Perspective Plan for linking various rivers in the country and that National Water Development Agency was set up to carry out studies in this regard;

(b) the estimated outlay for the project;

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred since the setting up of the NWDA (till date);

(d) the achievements made so far; and

(e) the present position of the project?